Diocese of Boise
IDAHO, DE SMET

Sacred Heart Mission
W-282

P.O. Box 306
De Smet, Idaho 83824
Phone 208-274-5871

Access: Some restrictions apply

History:

c. 1814-1840s
Lay Iroquois Indians from Canada, who were employed by the Northwest Fur Company, intermarried and catechized among the Salish Indians

1821
Hudson Bay Company employees in the Pacific Northwest [Montana, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington] petitioned for priests from the Vicar General of Upper Louisiana, St. Louis

1831, 1834, 1837, and 1841
Four delegations of Salish, Iroquois, and Nez Perce Indians attempted to request Jesuit missionaries from Bishop Joseph Rosati, C.M., in St. Louis whose diocese then apparently included Montana; only the first and fourth delegations reached St. Louis whereas the others were killed by Indians from enemy tribes

1840-1841
In response to the fourth request, Reverend Pierre J. de Smet, S.J. visited the Coeur d’Alene, Kalispel, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Salish, and other tribes throughout the Northwest

1843-1846 (closed)
Reverend Nicholas Point, S.J. established a mission among the Coeur d’Alene Indians

1848-1877 (no longer Indian)
Jesuits (formerly Missouri, Turin, and California; now Oregon Province, Portland, Oregon) established and administered Sacred Heart Mission (Coeur d’Alene), Cataldo

1877
Coeur d’Alene Indians relocated to the Coeur d’Alene Reservation

1877-present
Jesuits established and administered Sacred Heart Mission, De Smet, Coeur d’Alene Reservation

1878-1974 (closed)
Sisters of Charity of Providence (formerly St. Ignatius; now Mother Joseph Province, Seattle, Washington) established and staffed Providence of Mary Immaculate School (Coeur d’Alene), De Smet
ca. 1916-1930 Lawrence Nicodemus (1910-2004, Coeur d’Alene), a life-long devout Catholic and member of Sacred Heart parish, attended Sacred Heart School and Gonzaga High School, Spokane, Washington; he became a Columbia University scholar and linguist of the Coeur d’Alene language and a Coeur d’Alene tribal judge

1930s-present In honor of their ancestors, Coeur d’Alene Indians have visited Sacred Heart Mission and cemetery, Old Mission State Park, Cataldo, annually on the Feast of the Assumption (August 15th)

1939 Fire destroyed Sacred Heart Mission, De Smet, which was rebuilt

Jesuits from Sacred Heart, Cataldo and DeSmet, have attended the following Indian missions:

1864-1880 Spokan Mission (Spokane), Washington
1950-present St. Michael Mission (Coeur d’Alene), Worley, Coeur d’Alene Reservation, Idaho
1970-present Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (Coeur d’Alene), Plummer, Coeur d’Alene Reservation, Idaho

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1843-present

Volume: Approximately 1 cubic foot

Description: The records at Sacred Heart Mission are not organized according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is by record type.

A. Sacramental records
   Inclusive dates: 1843-present
   Volume: Several volumes
   Description: Sacred Heart Mission and its attended Indian missions; copies prior to 1937

B. Coeur d’Alene Indian Hymnal and Song Recordings
   Inclusive dates: Unknown
   Volume: 2 audiocassettes and book
   Description: Catholic worship in English and Coeur d’Alene.

C. Photographs
   Inclusive dates: Unknown
   Volume: Several
   Description: Prints (copies) of Sacred Heart Mission and Coeur d’Alene Indians; from Jesuit Oregon Province Archives, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington.